FROM OUT OF THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG COMES...
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.2 $1.50
SEGA
KNUCKLES
The Dark Legion
#2 OF A THREE ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
TAYLOR • PEPOY • BOLLERS

KNUCKLES™

The Dark Legion

Book Two

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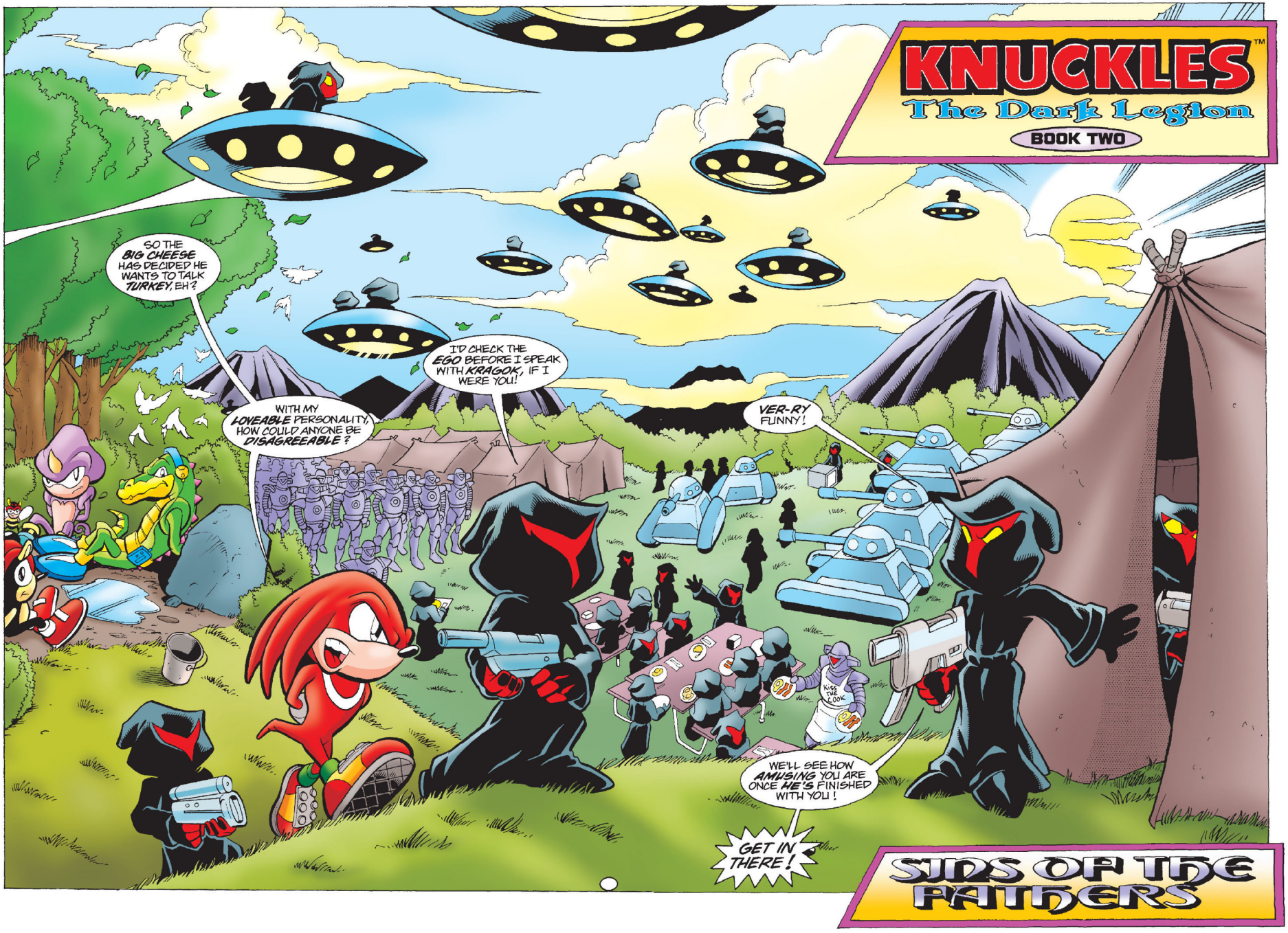
In many ways Knuckles' life has been a simple one, even though it came with many responsibilities from the moment he was born. Only at pivotal moments in his young life has he become aware of the magnitude of those responsibilities and the obligations he has incurred — not only because of who he is, but what he is as well.

As guardian of the floating island, Knuckles has ever sought to preserve the utopia-like environment for its inhabitants. Ever watchful of danger usually from forces originating from Mobius proper, he never dreamed his greatest threat would one day come from his own kind.

Having never previously interacted with any other echidna save his father, Knuckles, for the first time, finds himself questioning the lessons he has learned, and their relevancy to the predicament he now finds himself in. At this pivotal life point, he must decide whether to side with his own kind in the belief they may be right, or to oppose them out of simple faith in what he has been taught by his parent.

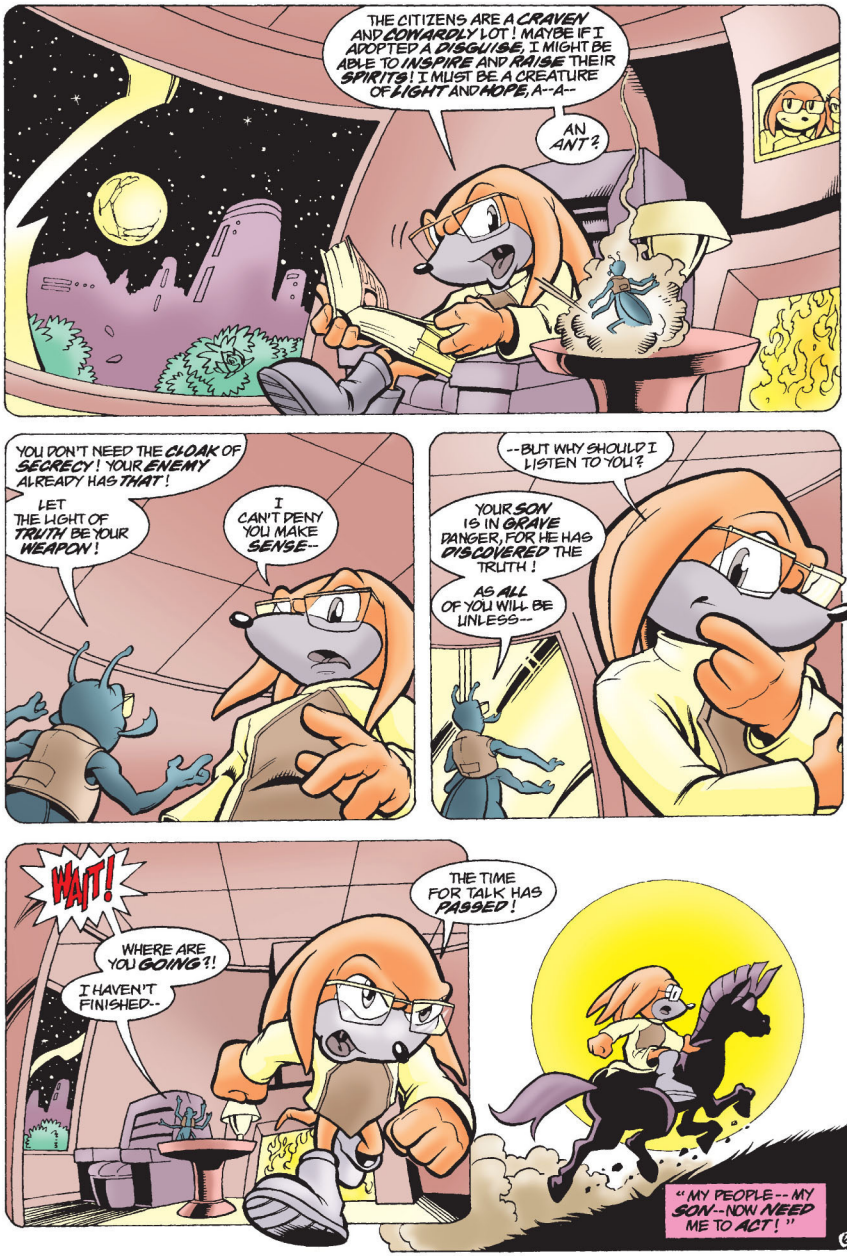
Unlike most choices he must make, this may be the most difficult yet, as either side can claim that blood is thicker...

SPA-LOOOSH!
WUBBA! WUBBA! WUBBA!
WHA--?
EITHER I'M DREAMING OR SOMEONE DOESN'T CARE IF THEY MAKE ME MAD!
AND NOBODY-- BUT NOBODY-- WANTS TO MAKE ME MAD!
TOUGH TALK COMING FROM ONE IN YOUR POSITION!
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU REALLY ARE TALKING TO KRAGOK!
LET'S GO!


KNUCKLES™
The Dark Legion
BOOK TWO
SO THE BIG CHEESE HAS DECIDED HE WANTS TO TALK TURKEY, EH?
WITH MY LOVEABLE PERSONALITY, HOW COULD ANYONE BE DISAGREEABLE?
I'D CHECK THE EGO BEFORE I SPEAK WITH KRAGOK, IF I WERE YOU!
VER-RY FUNNY!
KISS THE COOK
WE'LL SEE HOW AMUSING YOU ARE ONCE HE'S FINISHED WITH YOU!
GET IN THERE!
SIDS OF THE FATHERS

THERE HE IS!
COME IN, KNUCKLES! WE'VE A LOT TO DISCUSS!
GIVING ME THE SILENT TREATMENT, EH?
THERE'S A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, BUT HERE AND NOW IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE.
SIT! SIT!
IT'S KINDA HARD TO BE OBLIGING WHEN ONE IS SHACKLED-- GET MY DRIFT?
RELEASE HIM!
LEST YOU GET ANY FOOLISH NOTIONS, REMEMBER--MY MEN WON'T HESITATE TO TAKE ACTION!
NOW THEN-- WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?
SNAP!

THE PAST:
MY QUEEN, THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE ECHIDNAS GROWS WORSE!
WE'VE DONE ALL THAT WE CAN, CHRISTOPHELES!
WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?
THEY APPOINTED ONE OF THEIR OWN TO ACT AS A SAFEGUARD FROM THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN TECHNOLOGY!
THAT MAY BE THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, M'LADY!
THERE ISN'T ANY PRECEDENCE FOR HIS STATION AMONGST HIS PEOPLE!
PERHAPS IF HE HAD A GUIDE--
SOMEONE WITH EXPERIENCE SUCH AS THOSE IN THIS CHAMBER!
ANY VOLUNTEERS--
CHRISTOPHELES?
I LIVE TO SERVE, MY QUEEN!
I'M ON MY WAY!
BAMF!

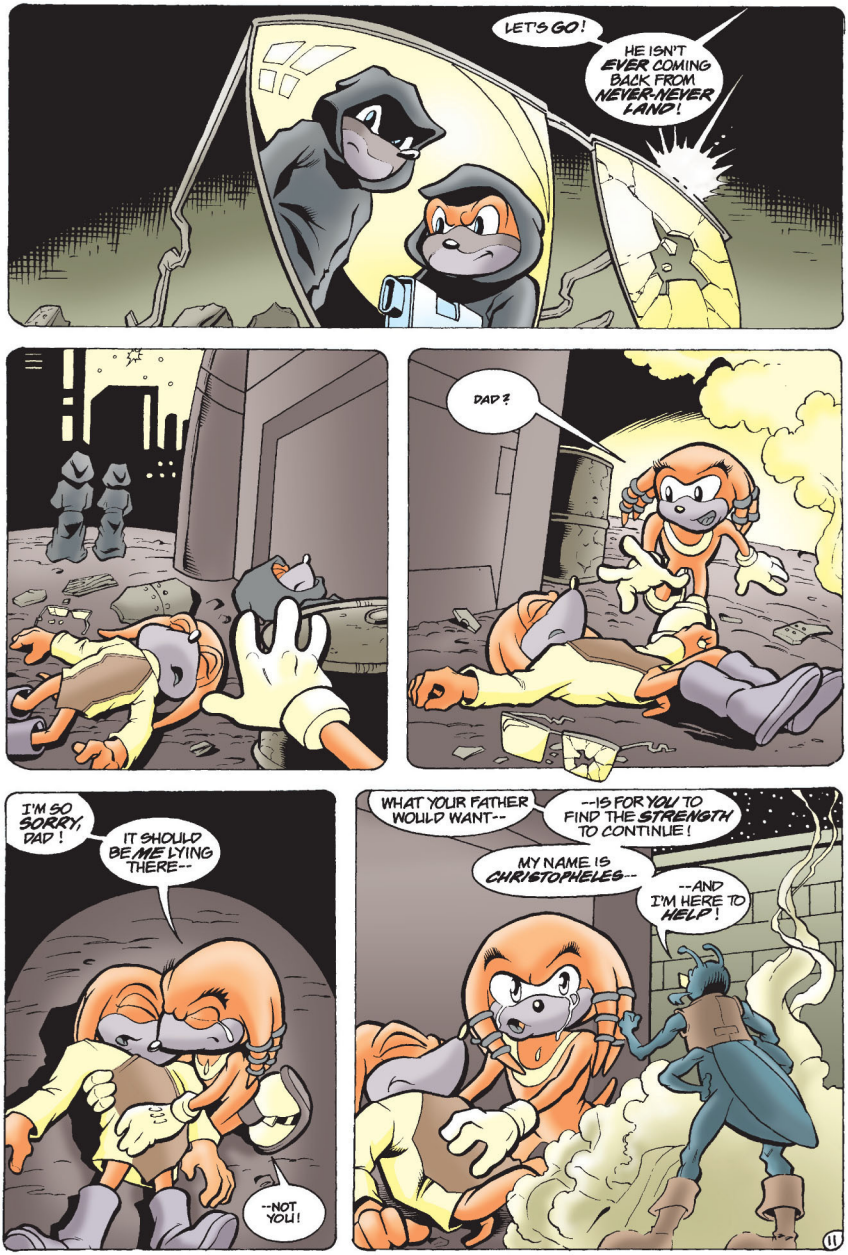

THE CITIZENS ARE A CRAVEN AND COWARDLY LOT! MAYBE IF I ADOPTED A DISGUISE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INSPIRE AND RAISE THEIR SPIRITS! I MUST BE A CREATURE OF LIGHT AND HOPE, A--A--
AN ANT?
YOU DON'T NEED THE CLOAK OF SECRECY! YOUR ENEMY ALREADY HAS THAT!
LET THE LIGHT OF TRUTH BE YOUR WEAPON!
I CAN'T DENY YOU MAKE SENSE--
--BUT WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?
YOUR SON IS IN GRAVE DANGER, FOR HE HAS DISCOVERED THE TRUTH!
AS ALL OF YOU WILL BE UNLESS--
WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED--
THE TIME FOR TALK HAS PASSED!
"MY PEOPLE--MY SON--NOW NEED ME TO ACT!"
6

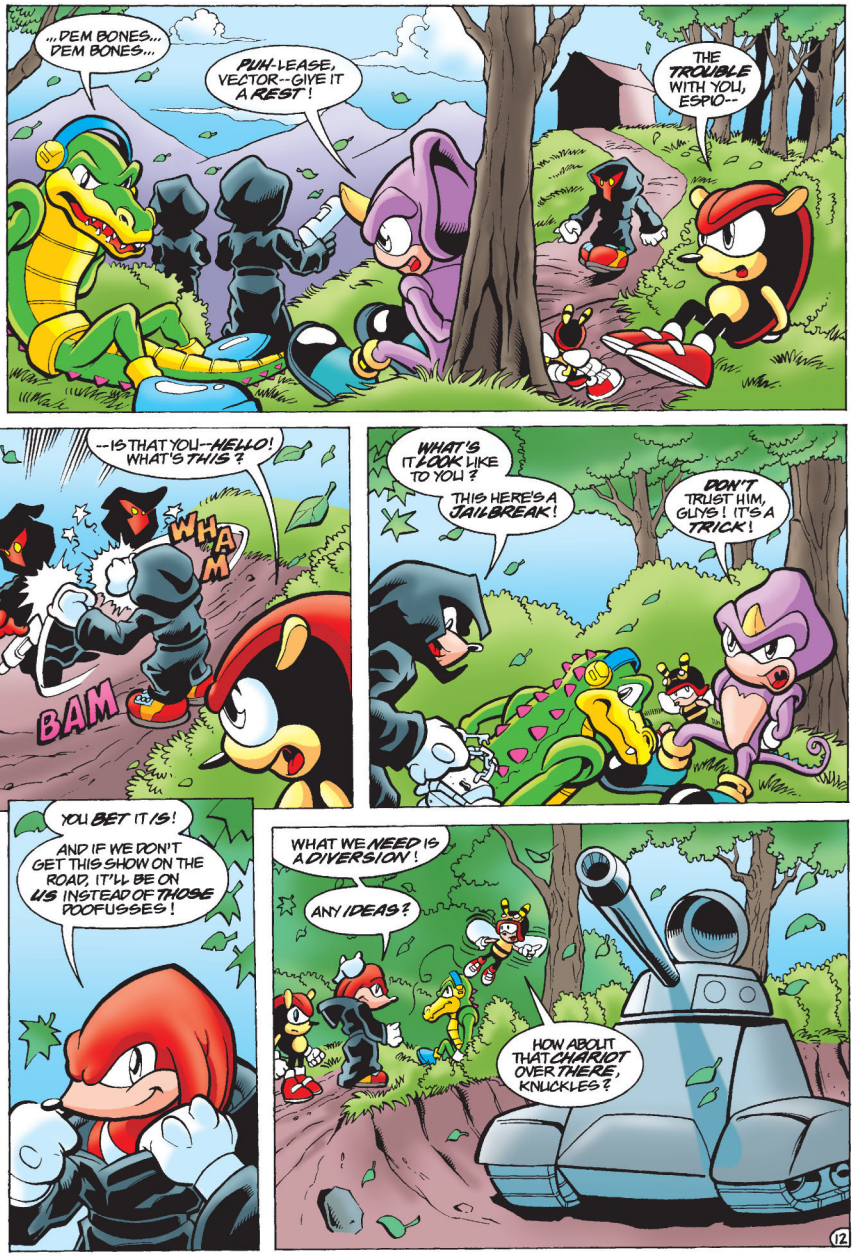
WHERE TO START, EH?
HOW ABOUT I START BY GETTING RID OF ALL THIS REPRESSED ANGER IN ME?!!
HOW ABOUT I SEE HOW TOUGH YOU REALLY ARE?!
KRAAK
OOF!
OOW!
BASH!
BAM!
DO YOU REALLY THINK I NEED MY GUARDS TO HANDLE THE LIKES OF YOU?!
THEN WHY'RE THEY STILL HOLDING ME, LEAD HEAD?
WHACK!

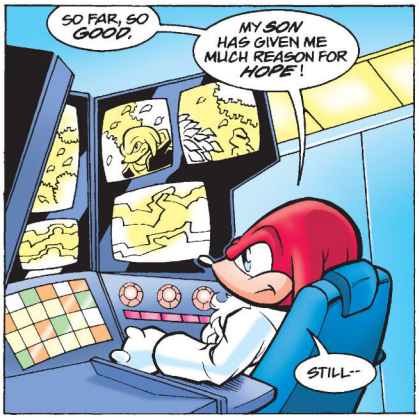
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKS THE QUESTIONS HERE!
FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU JUST BETTER HAVE ANSWERS!
TO BEGIN WITH--
WHERE IS THE CHAOS CHAMBER?
BEATS ME.
YOU'RE A GUARDIAN-- OF COURSE YOU KNOW...
...BUT I WON'T WASTE MY TIME PLAYING YOUR GAMES!
I'LL JUST DO AS YOU SUGGEST!
BEAT HIM!
THWOK!
BAM
BIFF
KRAAK
BASH
THWAAM

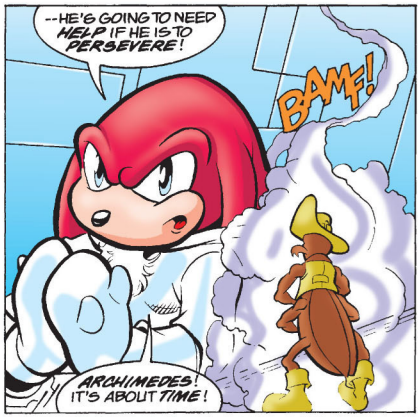
YOU HIT LIKE SISSIES!
WHAP
I GOT 'IM!
BAM!
POW!
THAT'S MY LEG, IDIOT!
KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS, FELLAS?
IT'S CRUNCH TIME!
AND BOY, DO I MEAN "CRUNCH"!
SAY GOOD NIGHT, SOLDIER BOY!
GOOD THING WE ECHIDNAS ARE ALL ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE,
HATE TO THINK HOW I'D PULL THIS OFF IF WE WEREN'T!
AND NOW--

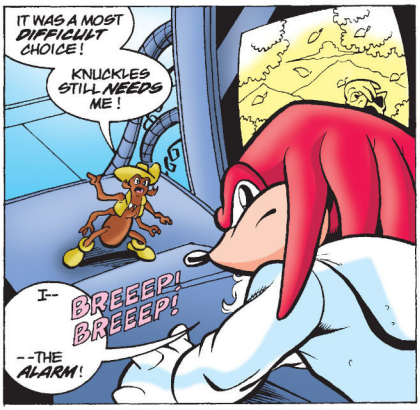
AWW--THERE'S NO WAY THE PUNK COULD'VE SURVIVED THE CRASH!
DO YOU SEE A BODY? I DON'T SEE ANY BODY!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
--UNLESS YOU SEE A BODY-- EH?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM OVER HERE!
CLAMP!
mmmm mm mmm mm...
DID YOU SAY SOMETHI--
UGH!
WHACK
ZZADAT!
Tinkle
KRESH
10

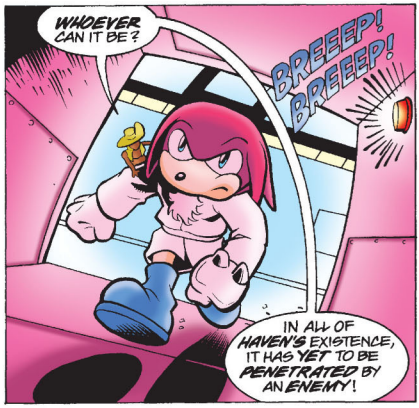

LET'S GO!
HE ISN'T EVER COMING BACK FROM NEVER-NEVER LAND!
DAD?
I'M SO SORRY, DAD!
IT SHOULD BE ME LYING THERE--
--NOT YOU!
WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD WANT--
--IS FOR YOU TO FIND THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE!
MY NAME IS CHRISTOPHELES--
--AND I'M HERE TO HELP!
11

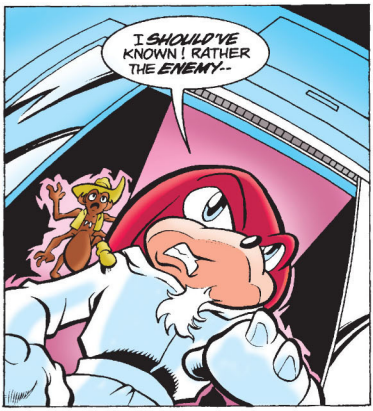

...DEM BONES... DEM BONES...
PUH-LEASE, VECTOR--GIVE IT A REST!
THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, ESPIO--
--IS THAT YOU--HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?
WHAM
BAM
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
THIS HERE'S A JAILBREAK!
DON'T TRUST HIM, GUYS! IT'S A TRICK!
YOU BET IT IS!
AND IF WE DON'T GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD, IT'LL BE ON US INSTEAD OF THOSE POOFUSSES!
WHAT WE NEED IS A DIVERSION!
ANY IDEAS?
HOW ABOUT THAT CHARIOT OVER THERE, KNUCKLES?
12

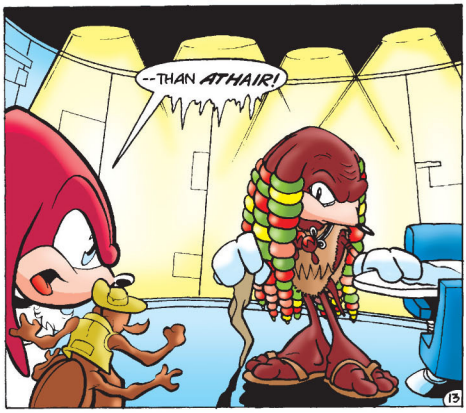

SO FAR, SO GOOD.
MY SON HAS GIVEN ME MUCH REASON FOR HOPE!
STILL--


--HE'S GOING TO NEED HELP IF HE IS TO PERSEVERE!
BAM!
ARCHIMEDES! IT'S ABOUT TIME!


IT WAS A MOST DIFFICULT CHOICE!
KNUCKLES STILL NEEDS ME!
I--
BREEEP! BREEEP!
--THE ALARM!

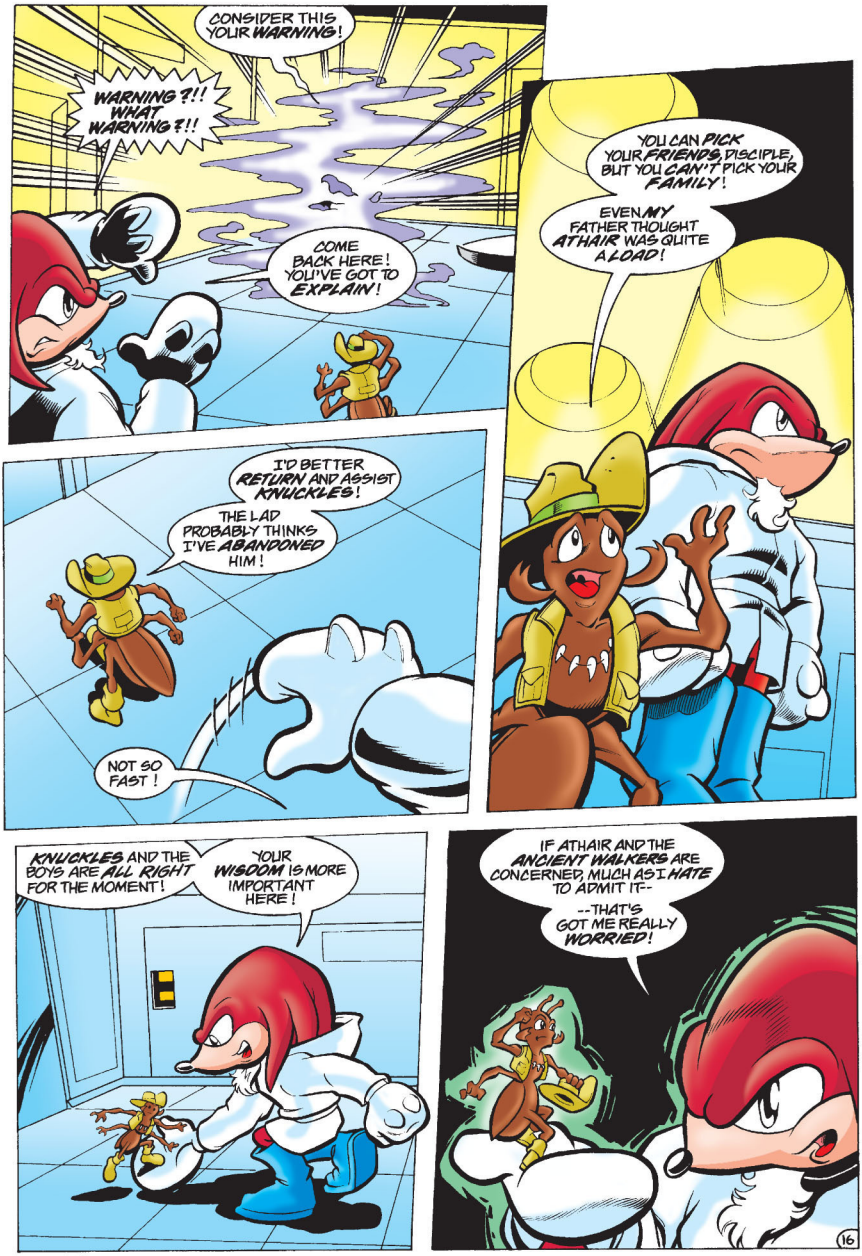

WHOEVER CAN IT BE?
BREEEP! BREEEP!
IN ALL OF HAVEN'S EXISTENCE, IT HAS YET TO BE PENETRATED BY AN ENEMY!

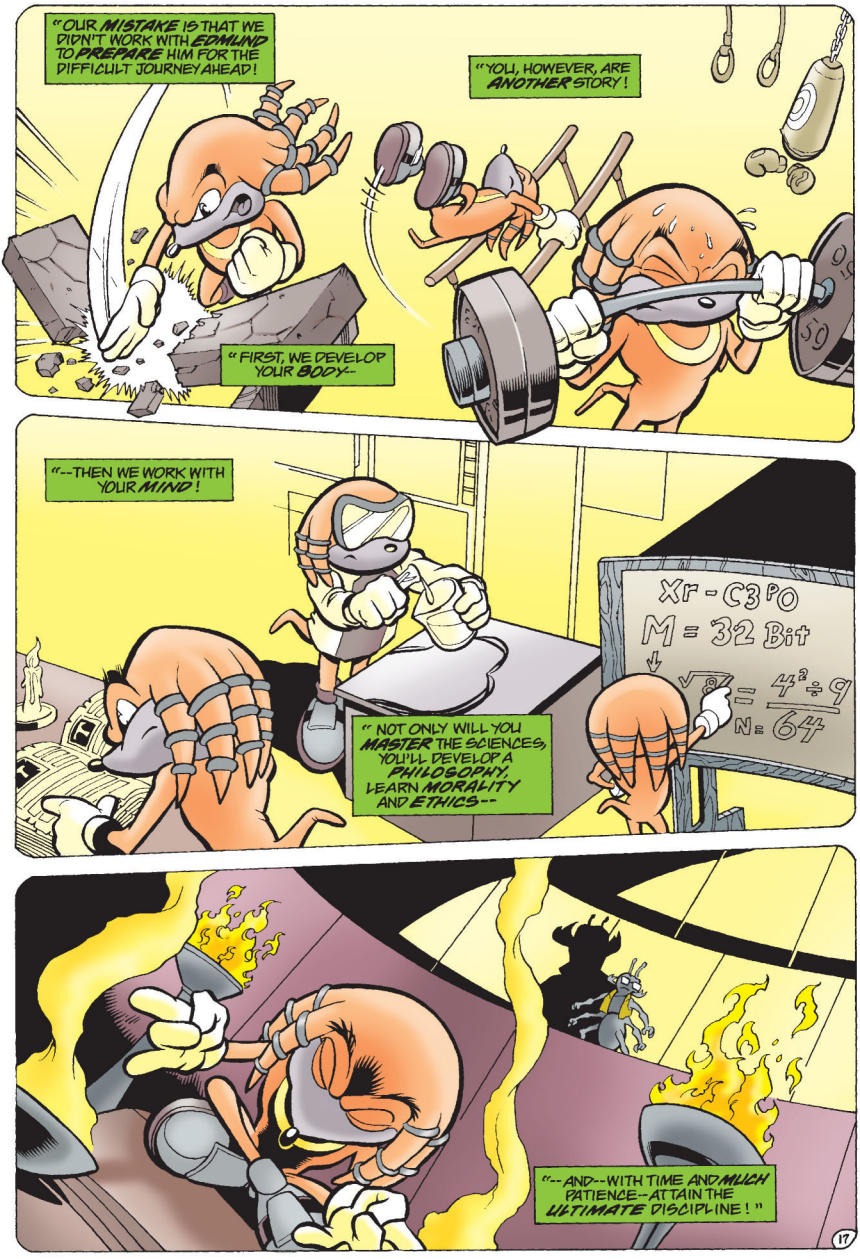

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! RATHER THE ENEMY--


--THAN AT HAIR!

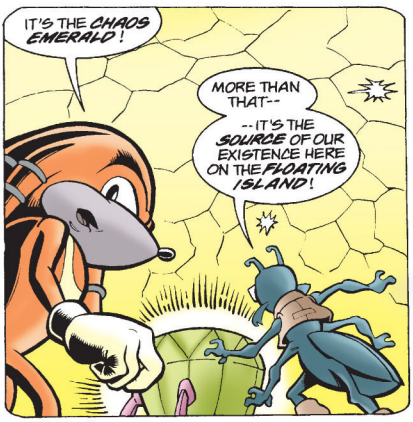
DID YOU HEAR? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING OUT SOON!
NOT SOON ENOUGH, IF YOU ASK ME!
RROOOAAARRR
EXPLOSI
WHOA! CHECK THIS OUT!!
K'RAGOK'S GONNA HAVE SOMEONE'S HEAD FOR THIS!
EXPLOSIVE
SKA-RUUNCH
SKRUNCH
SKRUNCH
ROOAARRRRRR
KA-BOOOMM!
THAT OUGHTTA BREAK 'EM UP!
HEY, MAN, ALL THESE AEROBICS ARE GETTING TO YOURS TRULY!
HOW ABOUT A BREAK?
LATER!
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO CREATE SOME BREATHING ROOM BETWEEN US AND THEM!
SO, LET'S MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!

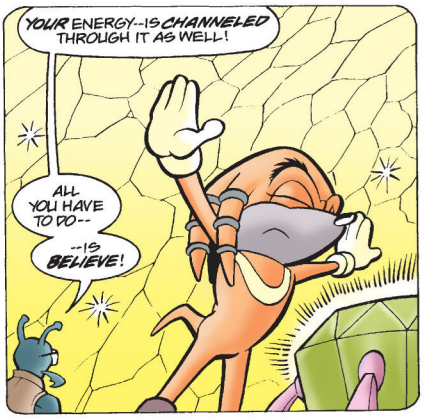
YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO MAKE ONE FEEL WELCOME, GRANDSON!
AND YOU HAVE SOME NERVE SHOWING UP HERE, OLD MAN!
WE'RE STILL PAYING FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR SELFISHNESS!
SELFISHNESS?
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?
EVERYONE--PLEASE--THIS IS AN OLD ARGUMENT!
IF ATHAIR IS HERE--
--IT MUST BE IMPORTANT!
OH, BOY!
MORE SO THAN YOU THINK!


CONSIDER THIS YOUR WARNING!
WARNING?!! WHAT WARNING?!!
COME BACK HERE! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN!
YOU CAN PICK YOUR FRIENDS, DISCIPLE, BUT YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY!
EVEN MY FATHER THOUGHT ATHAIR WAS QUITE A LOAD!
I'D BETTER RETURN AND ASSIST KNUCKLES!
THE LAD PROBABLY THINKS I'VE ABANDONED HIM!
NOT SO FAST!
KNUCKLES AND THE BOYS ARE ALL RIGHT FOR THE MOMENT!
YOUR WISDOM IS MORE IMPORTANT HERE!
IF ATHAIR AND THE ANCIENT WALKERS ARE CONCERNED, MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT--
--THAT'S GOT ME REALLY WORRIED!

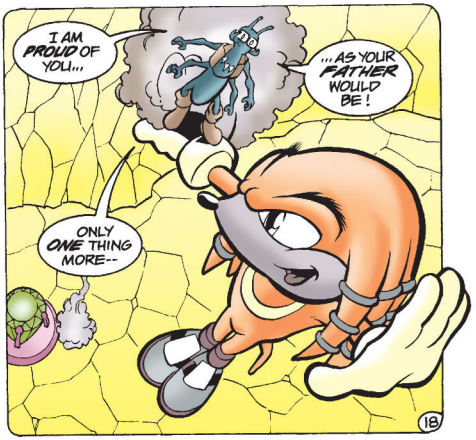

"OUR MISTAKE IS THAT WE DIDN'T WORK WITH EDMUND TO PREPARE HIM FOR THE DIFFICULT JOURNEY AHEAD!
"YOU, HOWEVER, ARE ANOTHER STORY!
"FIRST, WE DEVELOP YOUR BODY--
"--THEN WE WORK WITH YOUR MIND!
Xr - C3PO
M = 32 Bit
N = 64
"NOT ONLY WILL YOU MASTER THE SCIENCES, YOU'LL DEVELOP A PHILOSOPHY, LEARN MORALITY AND ETHICS--
"--AND--WITH TIME AND MUCH PATIENCE--ATTAIN THE ULTIMATE DISCIPLINE!"

BEHOLD--
YOUR PAST!
YOUR FUTURE!


IT'S THE CHAOS EMERALD!
MORE THAN THAT--
--IT'S THE SOURCE OF OUR EXISTENCE HERE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

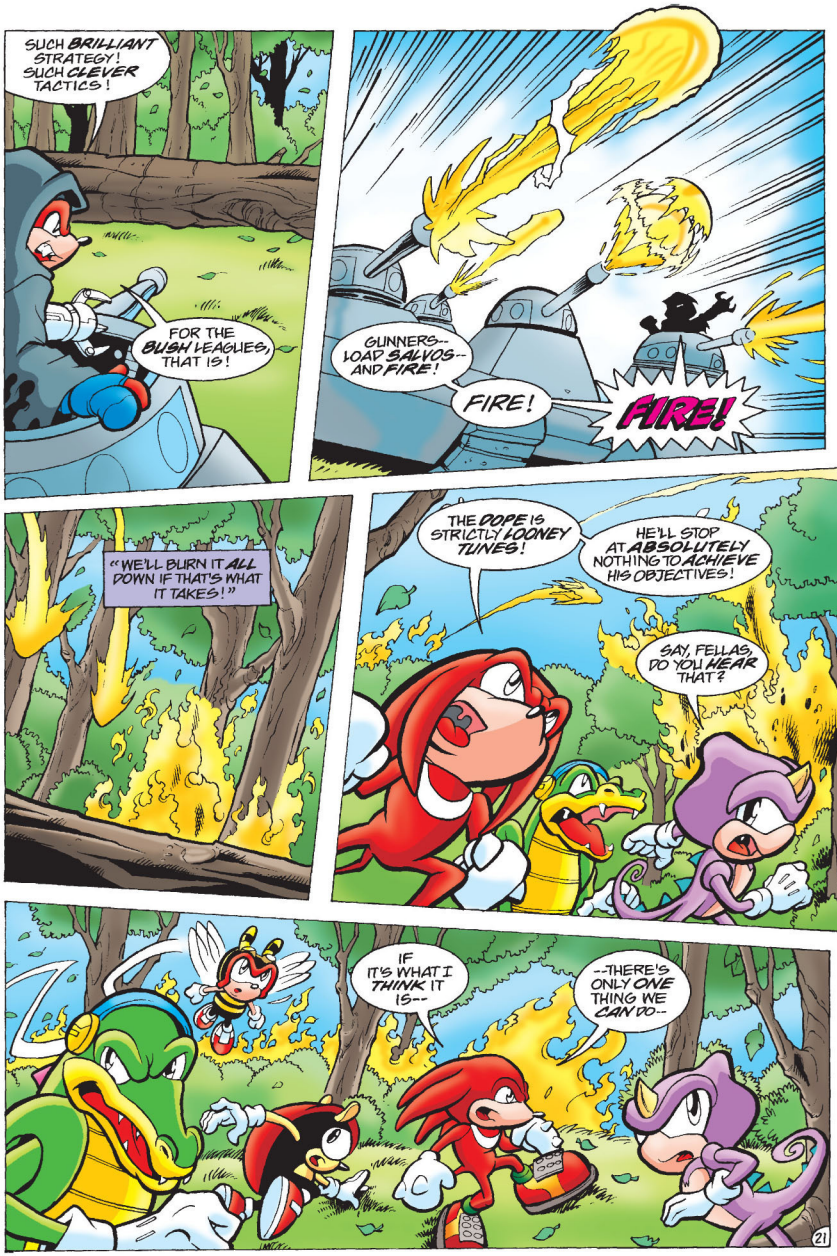

YOUR ENERGY--IS CHANNELED THROUGH IT AS WELL!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO--
--IS BELIEVE!

EXCELLENT, STEPPENWOLF!
EXCELLENT!


I AM PROUD OF YOU...
...AS YOUR FATHER WOULD BE!
ONLY ONE THING MORE--

"--BEFORE YOU ASSUME THE MANTLE OF GUARDIAN!"
THERE IT IS, STEPPENWOLF! YOUR NEW HOME!
EH--ER-- WHERE?
WHAT HOME?
WHY--STRAIGHT AHEAD!
JUST KEEP WALKING!
ARE YOU SURE?
MORE THAN SURE!
WELCOME TO HAVEN!
THIS WILL BE YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS--
--AS WELL AS THAT OF FUTURE GUARDIANS!

KER-RAAASH
KER-RAAASH
ROOOAAARR
KEEP GOING!
THEY CAN'T BE THAT FAR AHEAD!
THAT DOES IT!
NOT ANOTHER STEP!
THEY CAN HAVE MY HIDE TO MAKE KRAGOK'S PERSONAL LUGGAGE IF THEY WANT!
CHILL, VECTOR!
I GOT IT!
MIGHTY--I NEED YOU TO PLAY LUMBERJACK WITH THIS FINE PIECE OF OAK--
--AND BRING IT ON DOWN!
KER-RAAM
KRAASH


SUCH BRILLIANT STRATEGY! SUCH CLEVER TACTICS!
FOR THE BUSH LEAGUERS, THAT IS!
GUNNERS--LOAD SALVOS--AND FIRE!
FIRE!
FIRE!
"WE'LL BURN IT ALL DOWN IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!"
THE DOPE IS STRICTLY LOONEY TUNES!
HE'LL STOP AT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES!
SAY, FELLAS, DO YOU HEAR THAT?
IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS--
--THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO--
21

GET OUTTA THE WAY!!
TO BE CONTINUED...